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ference to warn us; with the great body of informed public opinion, not only in this country, but everywhere, to point the way; with the problem of peace of the world most vitally to the front among the aspirations of men, our personal view is that the United States Congress should request the President of the United States to enter again into communication with foreign governments looking toward the earliest possible meeting of a Third Hague Peace Conference.

AMERICA'S MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT

UP TO November 8 more than one-fourth of all the officers of the American combatant forces in Europe who were in the Regular Army when the armistice was signed had resigned, and scores of other resignations were awaiting the action of the President and the Secretary of War. In the last two years 169 West Point students have resigned ere completing their courses. A similar trend of like dimensions has been noted in connection with the Naval Academy midshipmen at Annapolis.

Acts, formal and informal, words both subtle and bold, indicate that rancorous feeling of the deepest kind exists between Regular Army officers graduated at West Point, on the one hand, and officers from the former National Guard and civilians who attained commands for sheer merit as soldiers.

As for legislation before Congress defining the future size, make-up, and terms of enlistment and pay of the National Army, it is clear that it will be a civilian solution of marked differences of opinion between the Secretary of War and the General Staff urging a major program and General Pershing and men who have fought with and under him abroad opposing it. They agree as to the "necessity" of some form of universal military training, but differ when it comes to its kind and the term of conscription necessary to make it effective.

If to these facts there be added the equally significant information that recruiting for the navy and for the Regular Army is far from satisfactory to the government authorities, and that the States in a majority of cases have made no start in creating bodies of trained men who will take the place of the old National Guard, then it is safe to infer that societies organized to fan the flames of militarism in the United States are not succeeding in a way to cheer them up. It would seem to be true that the United States has learned something from its experience of war that makes it quite unwilling to provide either men or taxes with which to execute the will of the bellicose minority.

We are impressed with the fact that appointments to West Point now go a begging in many of the States;

that the demand goes up—and is conceded to be legitimate by General Pershing, a graduate—that the curriculum, ideals, and methods of this institution be modified so as to meet contemporary demands, and that its students during the last of the course be brought in touch with the rank and file of the army and with the outer public, so that it may lose its hitherto-intensified caste feeling, and have its professional haughtiness curbed and its fighting efficiency increased, if fight it must. If these changes are made, then there will be fewer cruel court-martial verdicts than are admitted to have been rendered in the recent war, fewer clashes between volunteer and drafted soldiers and their superiors based on the blindness of the latter to ideals and methods of democracy that may conflict with military discipline, and a democratic army may have a body of officers who will be respected, if not loved, by the rank and file when the call to arms comes, if come it must.

If Congress settles on a permanent army of 250,000, which is the minimum named by military experts, it will not get volunteers in that number; nor will a law providing for even a minimum period of universal military training be found workable, if it is passed. A popular referendum would defeat it. The United States is not going to put on clothes of a fashion that Europe has decided to strip off as fast as she can.

AN INDICATION OF THE INEVITABLE

THE reports out of Paris, too meager for details, indicate, however, that the draft of the Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Nations, supported by the American Peace Society as a basis for a future code of international law, is at last before the International Juridical Union created in Paris last May, a Union comprising forty members of various nationalities. At the opening session of the Union, held in Paris November 8, and presided over by Leon Bourgeois, the French member of the council of the League of Nations and honorary president of the Union, the Rights and Duties of Nations, set forth on the second page of the front cover of this magazine since America entered the war, were presented as a basis for a future code of international law. The cables announce that it is proposed to follow this declaration with a draft of international law which will be submitted to the various governments or to the League of Nations for approval. This unofficial body includes among its members, Elihu Root and James Brown Scott of the United States, Baron Makino of Japan, Dr. Drago of Brazil, Alessandor Alvarez of Chili, Fernando Prida of Spain, Francisco de la Barra of Mexico. From such men we may reasonably expect an intelligent service to the great cause of international peace, because